7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)p956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
Bangchan

132 243 The normal distribution of rain in the region, however, is almost ideal for single crop rice production. Heavy rainfall in May and June softens the soil for easy plowing and harrowing. During July and August, when the young plant does not require much water, the rainfall moderates. Again there is heavy rainfall in September and October when the maturing plant needs rising water as it shoots upward. Finally, during the harvesting season of December and January there is a minimum of rainfall. It is in terms of rainfall that the people divide the year into three seasons: (1) the rainy season of late May to November; (2) the cold season, December into early February; and (3) the dry hot season from late February to early May.

Vegetation

243 137 [311] [351] [361] [312] Of the 6,404 rai privately owned in Bangchan 6,106 rai is devoted to rice and 298 rai to homelots. During the rice season the village is seen as a vast rice field interspersed with bamboos and fruit trees on the homelots which string along the half dozen canals of the village. In the dry season only stumps of rice stalks are left in the field. 192 231 Some of these may be removed by burning. With the coming of rains, which usually fall once or twice in March and four or five times in April, a variety of grasses begin to appear and the rice field is gradually transformed into a grass field, providing a pasture for the buffaloes until the next planting season when the size of the grass field available

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137 to the buffaloes will be gradually reduced by the process
231 of land preparation.

244 The homelot is usually surrounded on all sides,
245 except the one facing the canal, with bamboos which serve
351 to protect the farm home from strong wind. Within this compound there always is a kitchen garden where a variety of plants and vegetables for everyday use are grown. If the homelot is large, there may be enough room at the backyard for an orchard where fruit trees may be grown. In some cases, aquatic plants are cultivated in the canal in front of the house.

137 In addition to cultivated plants, there are to be seen also wild shrubs and vines which are more or less restricted to small strips of land along the banks of the canals. Wild aquatic vegetables, especially the morning glory, are always seen in these canals, making them appear narrower than they actually are.

Livestock

231 Buffaloes: As in most of the rice producing areas of the country, so in Bangchan buffaloes are used in all kinds of farm work where the help of draft animals is needed. Since the village is without land which can be grazed the year-round, buffaloes are not locally bred but are brought in from the northeast and other parts of the kingdom. To be sure, there are some local-born buffaloes, and these are considered to be stronger and to live longer than the imported